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THE AIRPLANE IN PROPHECY



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FOREWORD.

This treatise entitled THE AIRPLANE IN PROPHECY was originally written May 20, 1940. Scriptures in the chapters in which the prophecies are given, but preceding these prophecies concerning the airplane, are given to show the setting or condition under which the airplanes shall be used.

ANDREW JACKSON STEPHENS,
Waelder, Texas, February 5, 1944.

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THE AIRPLANE IN PROPHECY.

The scriptures used in this discussion to show that the airplane is foretold in prophecy are taken from the writings of Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. The writings of Isaiah are not given in this discussion in accordance with the Biblical order of arrangement, but the writings taken from Ezekiel are given first as these seem to throw some light on the writings of Isaiah that are used in the treatment of this subject, and also seem to describe events mentioned in Isaiah concerning the airplane. The scriptures considered from Ezekiel were written "B. C. about 587."

The first sixteen verses of the thirty-eighth chapter of Ezekiel are as follows:

And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Mesheck and Tubal, and prophecy against him,

And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Mesheck and Tubal:

And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.

Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.

After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:

And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,

To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods that dwell in the midst of the land.

Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog before their eyes.

In these scriptures just given, the prophet Ezekiel states that the Lord is against Gog and that He will bring him forth with his army and that Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them, and Gomer and all his bands with the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands and that he shall come against the mountains of Israel. It is also stated that Gog shall invade Palestine where the people of Israel dwell safely to rob them of their cattle and goods and silver and gold.

Before discussing the references in these scriptures as to airplanes, there will be given a brief discussion as to what person Gog may be. He is addressed in the scripture quoted as "the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal", and that he shall have Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya, and Gomer and the house of Togarmah of the north quarters with him. It is also further stated that Gog shall come from his "place out of the north parts."

Then since Gog shall come from the north parts he must represent some such character as Hitler, or some other character in the future similar to him, or some ruler of Russia. However, Stalin's character is not such as to meet the fulfillment of the scriptural character that is given to Gog. But Hitler seems to fulfill this character Gog as given in the scriptures just quoted, as he has been crushing the other nations and governments of Europe and is at the present time, October 14, 1941, making efforts for the conquest of Russia, and has been persecuting and robbing the Jews of Germany in a way that has aroused the

denunciation of a great part of the world against him and has caused the sympathy of a great part of the world to be extended to the Jews.

In Ezekiel 39:4, the end of Gog is given as follows:

Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

At the present re-writing of this article, February 5, 1944, it seems that Hitler cannot be the victor in this war, and that it might be that some such character as Stalin may turn out to be Gog. However, as to which person may be Gog has nothing to do with the fulfillment of the prophecies under discussion concerning the airplane.

With the close of this dissertation as to the career and end of Gog, the scriptures referring to the airplane taken from the thirty-eighth chapter of Ezekiel will now be discussed. These are taken from the ninth and sixteenth verses of the chapter just previously mentioned and are as follows:

Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands and many people with thee.

And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

The ninth verse states that Gog shall "ascend and come like a storm" This gives the idea of the airplanes ascending in the air and with their great roaring coming like

a storm. This thought of ascending, which is peculiar to the airplane, is followed with the statement that Gog shall be like a cloud to cover the land. It seems that the meaning of this is that their ascending and coming like a storm, the many airplanes shall cover the land of Palestine like a cloud above it as their number shall be so great and they shall be so close together as to almost or quite obscure the clouds above Palestine, and that the airplanes themselves shall form a cloud above that country.

The sixteenth verse repeats the thought of the ninth verse as to Gog's forces covering the land "like a cloud." This verse also gives God's reason for bringing Gog against Palestine that the heathen may know Him when He shall be sanctified in Gog before their eyes.

In these two verses just quoted, it is stated that Gog and his army shall cover the land "like a cloud", and "as a cloud". The "cloud" suggests something above and not on the surface of the earth. If it referred to the surface of the land, the figure of speech used would not be appropriate to the true meaning, but since airplanes are such an important means of warfare, this figure of speech will be literally fulfilled if the thought of the two verses of scripture under consideration should be expressed in the following sentence which seems logically to convey its meaning: Gog with his army shall "ascend" and with his thousands of airplanes rushing and roaring "shall come like a storm" upon Palestine and these "shall cover the land like a cloud". The additional question may be asked, How could Gog and his army "ascend" if they should not use airplanes?

The following is given in Isaiah 17:12-14:

Woe to the multitude of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the seas; and to the rushing of

nations, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters.

The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

And behold at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us.

The scriptures just given from the seventeenth chapter of Isaiah are similar and suggestive of the thought given in the scriptures just previously considered from Ezekiel, as it is prophesied that the multitude of many people shall make a noise like the noise of the seas and that the nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters, but that God will rebuke them and that they will be chased as chaff of the mountains before the wind.

The noise of the nations suggests the airplane and their being chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind suggests the height of the invading forces which is suggestive of the airplane.

This will be the fate of those who attempt to spoil and rob the Jews in Palestine, as robbery is prophesied in the scriptures given from Ezekiel to be the object of Gog and his forces.

Attention shall now be directed to the prophecy of the airplane contained in the eleventh and sixtieth chapters of Isaiah. However, just preceding the scriptures taken from the sixtieth chapter of Isaiah the last three verses of the fifty-ninth chapter of Isaiah shall be given as these appear to be necessary to a complete understanding of the scriptures considered from the sixtieth chapter.

The scriptures included in the first fourteen verses of the eleventh chapter of Isaiah are as follows:

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots:

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.

But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.

This scripture just given from the eleventh chapter of Isaiah, written "B.C. about 713" gives the mission of Christ in His relationship to this world. The entire chapter is not given, but the first thirteen verses of the chapter are quoted to give the setting and introduction to the fourteenth verse which contains the prophecy concerning the airplane.

This scripture predicts that Christ shall descend from Jesse. His justice and mercy are shown. His destruction of the wicked is foretold, which is yet to be fulfilled. The peaceable nature of His kingdom on earth is shown as the result of the earth's being "filled with the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

This scripture foretells the second coming of Christ. The Jews at this time shall be gathered from all the nations

of the earth in which they shall be living. The context conveys the thought that they shall be carried to Palestine, though Palestine is not mentioned in this chapter, yet the expression "holy mountain" is made use of which refers to Jerusalem.

The fourteenth verse of this eleventh chapter of Isaiah contains the prophecy concerning the airplane in the statement that "they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west".

As several countries or nations are mentioned from which the Jews shall be gathered and as this statement seems to stand for all the nations of the earth in which the Jews shall be living at this time, "the Philistines" may represent in a general way all the other people of these nations in which the Jews shall be situated, to carry them in airplanes to Palestine. Since the gathering of the Jews together from all the nations of the earth is a prophecy yet to be fulfilled, and since the airplane is in use now in a general way, it can be inferred that the nations of the world shall carry them in airplanes to their final home which will be Palestine. However, the return of the Jews to Palestine may be said to have begun at the close of the first World War, as provision for their settlement there was made by treaty then. At the beginning of the second World War Palestine was said to have included in its population more than five hundred thousand Jews.

The scriptures of the fifty-ninth chapter of Isaiah, previously referred to as being introductory to the scriptures of the sixtieth chapter of Isaiah, are as follows:

So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood the spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

And the Redeemer shall come to Zion and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

As for me this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; my spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and forever.

These three last verses from the fifty-ninth chapter of Isaiah just given show the extent of the fear of the Lord and His glory. Reference is also made to the standard raised by the Spirit of the Lord when "the enemy shall come in like a flood", which, no doubt, refers to the overthrow and destruction of Gog and his army in their invasion of Palestine, as given in this discussion from the writings of Ezekiel.

The second verse refers to the coming of Christ to Zion or Jerusalem after the battle with the forces of the enemy.

The conversion of the Jews is then referred to, and the covenant is given which the Lord says that He will make with them.

The first eight verses of the sixtieth chapter of Isaiah are now given:

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.

Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged, because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD.

All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Neboioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?

The fifty-ninth and sixtieth chapters of Isaiah are authoritatively stated to have been written "B.C. about 698."

In these scriptures just given from the sixtieth chapter of Isaiah, the glory of the Lord is also considered as in the scriptures previously considered from the fifty-ninth chapter of Isaiah which seem to have reference to the conversion of the Jews. The scriptures of the sixtieth chapter give the effect of the glory of the Lord upon the Gentiles, and show how they shall respond to this glory. The glory of the Lord is shown in contrast with the darkness that shall cover the earth and the gross darkness that shall cover the people.

It is then stated that the Gentiles shall come to this light, that the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto the Lord, and that the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto Him.

The prophet then states how the people shall come unto Christ in Palestine, that "the multitude of camels will cover

thee" The dromedaries from Midian and Ephah are spoken of. It is also stated that all they from Sheba shall come, and that "all the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee", and that "the rams of Neboioth shall minister unto thee."

After describing, as just given, the coming of the Gentiles to Christ, the prophet asks this question:

Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?

In this last verse just quoted there is a prophecy of the airplane. How shall people be able to fly to the glory of Christ in Zion of Palestine except in airplanes? It is stated that they shall "fly as a cloud." This verse of scripture suggests airplanes flying through the clouds. They shall fly in airplanes to Zion like "doves to their windows."

The expression "as the doves to their windows" in the verse of scripture under consideration may mean that the Gentiles will fly to Christ in Zion for refuge as the dove released by Noah from the window of the Ark flew back to the hand of Noah twice and was received again into the Ark through the window of the Ark, as given in Genesis 8:8-12.

The following clippings from a newspaper of the date of June 15, 1940 contain language describing the airplane which is suggestive and similar to the figurative language quoted from the scriptures written by Ezekiel and Isaiah as given in this article.

The clippings were as follows:

"Premier Reynaud, who believes in miracles if nothing less will save France, is looking for one in the United States. Declaring his country's life at stake, he has called for 'clouds of airplanes from across the Atlantic' to fight the Nazi invader. The simple hard truth is that the United States has no 'clouds' of airplanes to send."

"The British idea outlined today echoes the plea made late last night by French Premier Paul Reynaud for 'clouds of warplanes' immediately swarming over the Atlantic, presumably flying with their own power rather than snailing across in surface ships."

The fourth verse of the twelfth chapter of Daniel, written "B.C. about 534", will now be considered:

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

This verse of scripture referring "to the time of the end" contains thought that is suggestive not only of the airplane and automobile but also of other modern ways of travel, as well as referring to the great increase and extent of knowledge that prevail at the present time.

A brief summary will now be given as to these prophecies concerning the airplane and its relationship to the character Gog and the world in general.

As previously stated it has been shown that Gog shall come from "the north parts", and that he shall be turned back and be brought against Palestine. It is also prophesied that Gog will have many nations with him. Persia, Ethiopia and Libya are predicted to be with him. However, no one can be certain at the present time who Gog may be, but the prophecies of Ezekiel concerning airplanes as given in this article show that he shall come in airplanes and shall cover the land of Palestine like a cloud. The prophecy is also given that he and his armies shall be slain on the mountains of Palestine.

The airplane is also predicted in the statement that "They shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west."

The airplane is predicted in the sixtieth chapter of Isaiah in the description given of the light of the glory of the Lord upon the earth, of people flying to the light of the glory of the Lord as "doves to their windows."

The glory of the Lord upon the earth seems to refer to the second coming of Christ.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, the apostle Paul states:

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

This promise of eternal life in the future world kingdom of Christ is promised only to Christian people. The unconverted or those that are not saved shall perish.

This second coming of Christ may be nearer than many may think. The airplanes are all ready to carry out the prophecies concerning the invasion of Palestine by Gog and his forces and bringing the Jews and Christians to Christ in Palestine.